Finance Commission also take particular note of specific requirements of each State during their visits. Such requirements are met through recommendations of grants for special problems and upgradation and thus provide an opportunity to backward States to put forth their claims.

Schemes of Himachal Pradesh

†562. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of Himachal Pradesh which are pending with Government for approval;

(b) the action taken thereon by Government so far; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken on these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Various schemes, relating to Agriculture, Industries, Roads and Bridges, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Food and Supplies, Education, Youth Services and Sports, Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Police Department, Environment Project and Pollution Control Board are under process/consideration with various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Necessary action is being taken on them by these Ministries/Departments.

(c) As a number of Departments/Ministries are involved, it is not possible to indicate a precise time-schedule.

Economic projections of Tenth Plan

†563. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the basis for economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan are not in line with the annual budget estimates of the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, the basis fixed for the economic projections of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the reasons for not taking the budget estimates as its basis?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The Tenth Five Year Plan is under preparation.

Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes

564. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group has recommended the adoption of monitoring and evaluation system for social sector development schemes for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the merits of the system and how it is different from present evaluation process; and

(c) the other measures to be adopted by Govt. to bring transparency in development activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes is in existence since First Five Year Plan. A Working Group for Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Social Sector Development Schemes in the country during the Tenth Plan was set up by the Planning Commission. This Working Group has made suggestions for improving monitoring, evaluation and for the use of information technology for this purpose.

(c) Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan has suggested the following measures, among others, to bring transparency in development activities.

(d) "Review the Official Secret Act, and supplement it by a right to Information Act. Rule 9 of the All India Services Conduct Rules and similar other Rules which prevents information being provided to an ordinary citizen should be deleted, and another rule added highlighting the intention of the Government in favour of transparency and stating that all such information which is generally provided by the Assembly/Parliament to a Member of Legislature, should also be provided to any member of the public, including NGO's."